(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Threat to the lives of public men

1889. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that threat life of politicians, social workers and of people in various other vulnerable sections of the society from terrorists and other anti-social/anti-national outfits has increased over the years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many such potential targets of terrorists assaults are left to defend themselves; and

(c) whether the restriction imposed on the licencees regarding possession of guns of prohibitive bore is justified against the increasing use of sophisticated weapons by terrorists and anti-national forces?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is not correct that potential targets of terrorists assaults are left to defend themselves. In terrorists affected areas some of the vulnerable targets have been provided with Armed Guards. The persons concerned themselves have also been granted licences for weapons. Licences for non prohibited bore weapons are given by the local administration/state government. Licence for semi automatic and prohibited bore weapons are issued to persons who face grave and imminent threat to their lives from terrorists after detailed verification, whenever such requests are recommended by the concerned state governments/UT Admns.

Licence for Fire-Arms

1890. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the authority to issue licence for fire-arms used to vest with District Administrations, States and also with the Central Government, whereas presently it stands centralised solely with the Central Government;

(b) if so, what are the present rules and procedures for obtaining necessary licence from the Central Government; and

(c) whether the said policy is being reviewed presently for change/amendment?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) to (c) The policy has been reviewed and it has been decided *inter-alia* to do away with the requirement of obtaining prior clearance of the Government of India for issue/renewal of All-India licences in respect of certain categories of fire-arms.

Newscasts of the Celebrations of Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji by Doordarshan

1891. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that glimpses of the celebrations of birth anniversary of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji at Takht Harimandirji Patna Sahib the birth place of the revered tenth Guru of Sikhism, used to be shown by Doordarshan in its national programms of newscasts in the previous years;

(b) whether the said celebrations held on 3rd January, 1990, were not shown in any of the newscasts of that day; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) It has always been the endeavour of Doordarshan to suitably cover the celebrations connected with Birth Anniversaries of religious leaders. The Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh ji at Takhat Harimandirji, Patna Sahib, was accordingly covered last year. The Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh ji in January this year was also extensively covered by Doordarshan in its national bulletins and included visual coverages of the celebrations from Golden Temple, Damdama Sahib, Talwandi Sahib, Anandpur Sahib, Kirtpur Sahib and Manji Sahib in Punjab and Gurudwara Rakabganj Sahib in Delhi. The celebrations at Patna Sahib could, however, not be covered because of non-availability of a camera crew.

National Highways in Orissa

1892. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing length of National Highways in Orissa;

(b) what would be the total length of National Highways in that State as per the recommendation of the Draft Road Development Plan formula; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to develop the National Highways in that State?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Length of National Highways in Orissa is 1649 Kms.

(b) Road Development Plan for India 1981—2001 had indicated the target for total length of National Highways for a country as a whole by the end of the century. The State-wise break-up of this length has not been indicated in that Plan.

(c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and a sum of Rs. 54·08 crores was allocated for the development of National Highways in Orissa during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Detention of Ms. Patricia Munday

1893. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the detention of Nobel Prize Winner, Ms. Patricia Munday of the U.S.A. by the West Bengal Police;

(b) if so, the reasons of detention and deportation proceedings; and

(c) whether any case has been registered against the people accused of assaulting and injuring Ms. Munday?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) and (b) The Government have no information that Ms. Patricia Munday, U.S. National, is a Nobel Prize winner in her individual capacity. She entered India illegally. Deportation orders were issued by the West Bengal Government directing her to leave India. However, she has left on her own *via* IGI Airport on 24-3-1990.

(c) According to the available information, a case has been registered about the incident at Police Station Joypur Purubia District in case No. 10/90 dated 28-1-1990.